GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3815
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
ZERO RENTAL PLAN BY MOBILE OPERATORS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has paid attention towards the advertisements like Zero rental i.e. no monthly rent given by the mobile operators to lure the subscribers;

(b) if so, whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has taken any steps to stop such advertisements under the name of "Zero Rental Plan" and to instruct the mobile operators to give complete information about monthly, fixed or club membership tariff including other monthly rent under one head; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) There is no bar in offering tariff plans such as Zero Rental provided that there is no fixed monthly charges applicable in such plans. In order to protect the interest of consumer and to enhance transparency in the provision of service, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued direction to the Telecom Operators on 16th September,2005 that

i) No tariff plan shall be offered, presented, marketed or advertised in a manner that is likely to mislead the subscribers. For example, title of a tariff plan which suggests absence of Rental would be misleading if the plan has Monthly Mandatory Fixed charge in one form or other.

ii) All monthly fixed recurring charges which are compulsory for a subscriber under any given plan shall be shown under one head. This should also include charges for Value Added Services, if such Value Added Services are not optional for the subscriber.